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### *For Immediate Release*

## **Judicial Nominating Commission releases names of nominees to fill vacant District Court judgeship for Pulaski and Rockcastle counties**

FRANKFORT, Ky., Sept. 12, 2005 — The Judicial Nominating Commission met Friday in Somerset to choose nominees for the office of district judge for the 28th Judicial District, Division 2. The judgeship serves Pulaski and Rockcastle counties. The vacancy was created when District Judge David A. Tapp was appointed to a circuit judgeship, effective July 12. Three attorneys were nominated to fill this vacancy: Paul F. Henderson III, Carrie C. Mullins and Kathryn G. Wood.

### **Attorney Paul F. Henderson III**

Henderson resides and practices law in Somerset. He handles both civil and criminal law, with the majority of his cases in bankruptcy, domestic relations, personal injury and workers' compensation. He graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law after completing a bachelor's degree in math and chemistry from Centre College in Danville.

### **Carrie C. Mullins**

Mullins is currently affiliated with Cox, Fish & Amburgey, LLC in Mt. Vernon. She previously practiced with Brooks, McComb, Fields & Ruble, Attorneys at Law, in Lexington, where she was named partner. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in history and political science from the University of Kentucky and a law degree from UK College of Law. She resides in Mt. Vernon.

### **Kathryn G. Wood**

Wood resides and works in Somerset where she has a solo practice that focuses on criminal court cases and civil court cases involving domestic relations and other civil actions. She previously practiced law with Stanziano & Wood. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Eastern Kentucky University and a law degree from Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law.

### **Judicial Nominating Process**

When a judicial vacancy occurs, the executive secretary of the Judicial Nominating Commission publishes a notice of vacancy in the judicial circuit or the judicial district affected. Attorneys can recommend someone or nominate themselves. The names of the applicants are not released. Once nominations occur, the individuals interested in the position return a questionnaire to the Office of Chief Justice. Chief Justice Lambert then meets with the Judicial Nominating Commission to choose three nominees. Because the Kentucky Constitution requires that three names be

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submitted to the governor, in some cases the commission submits an attorney's name even though the attorney did not apply. A letter naming the three nominees is sent to Gov. Ernie Fletcher for review. When the governor appoints a replacement, his office makes the announcement.

**District Court**

District Court is a court of limited jurisdiction which hears civil cases involving \$4,000 or less, juvenile matters, city and county ordinances, misdemeanors, cases relating to domestic violence and abuse, guardianships for disabled people, traffic offenses, probate of wills and felony preliminary hearings. The Small Claims Division is part of District Court's jurisdiction and informally handles matters with a value of \$1,500 or less. The Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort supports the activities of more than 3,400 Kentucky Court of Justice employees, including the elected offices of justices, judges and circuit court clerks.

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